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(54) **PORTABLE ENCLOSURE FOR A BED**

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A47D 13/068

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57)

ABSTRACT

An enclosure for enclosing an area including a frame and a canopy assembly. The frame includes an upper laterally-extending support, a first upstanding support coupled to a first end of the upper support, and a second upstanding support coupled to a second end of the upper support. The upper support is length-adjustable. The canopy assembly is connectable to the frame for defining an enclosed area, and includes a plurality of collars removably connectable to the frame, and at least one panel holdable in a plane defined by the supports of the frame. The circumference of at least one such collar is adjustable so that when the length of the upper support is adjusted, the collar circumference can be adjusted to accommodate the change in length.

18 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets

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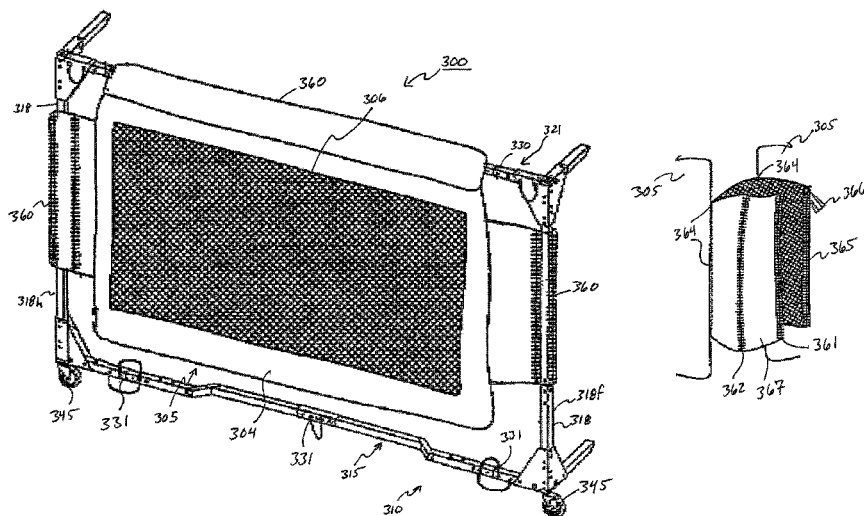
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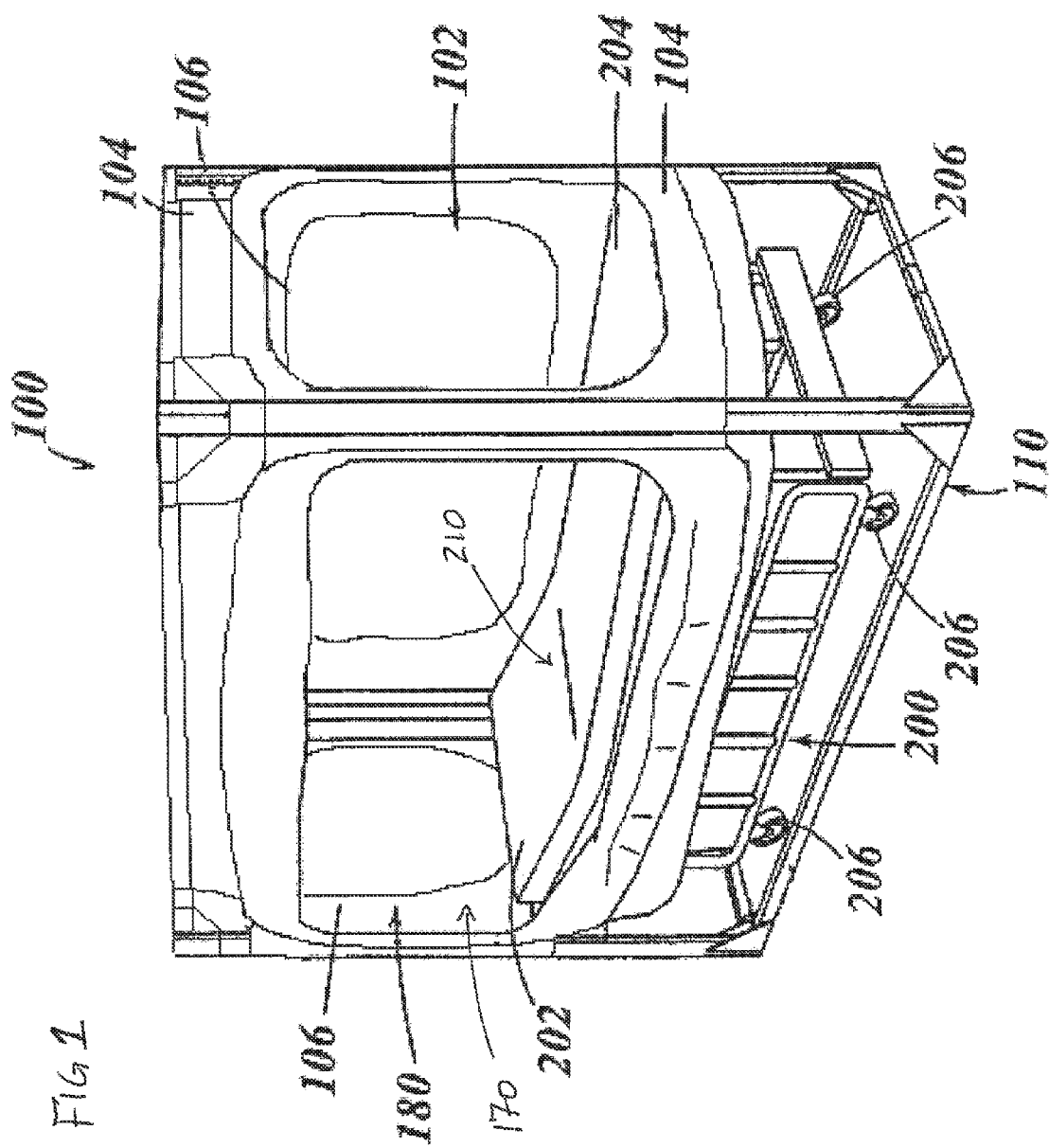
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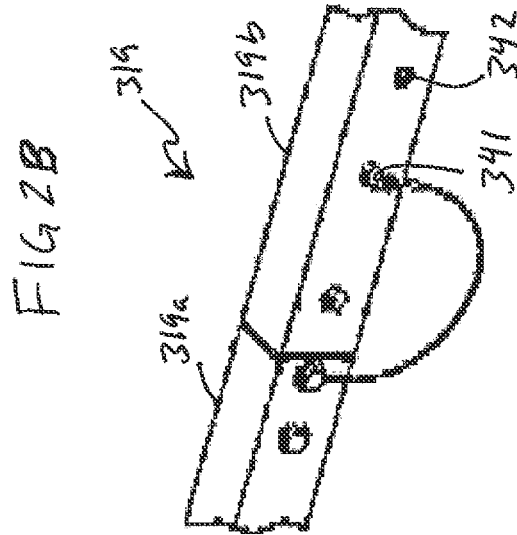
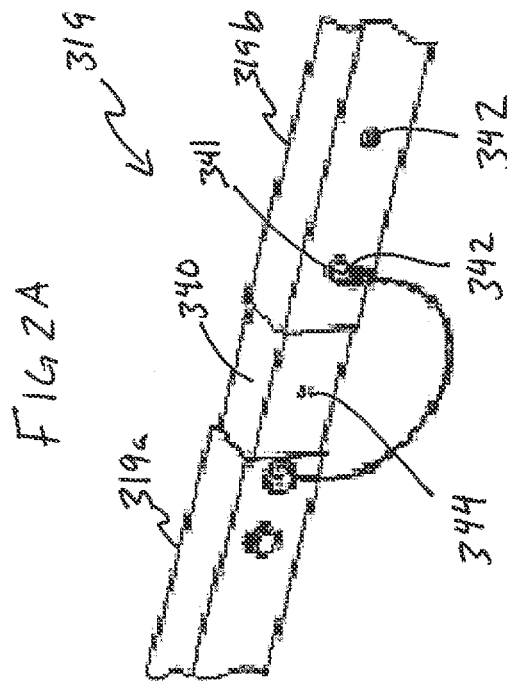
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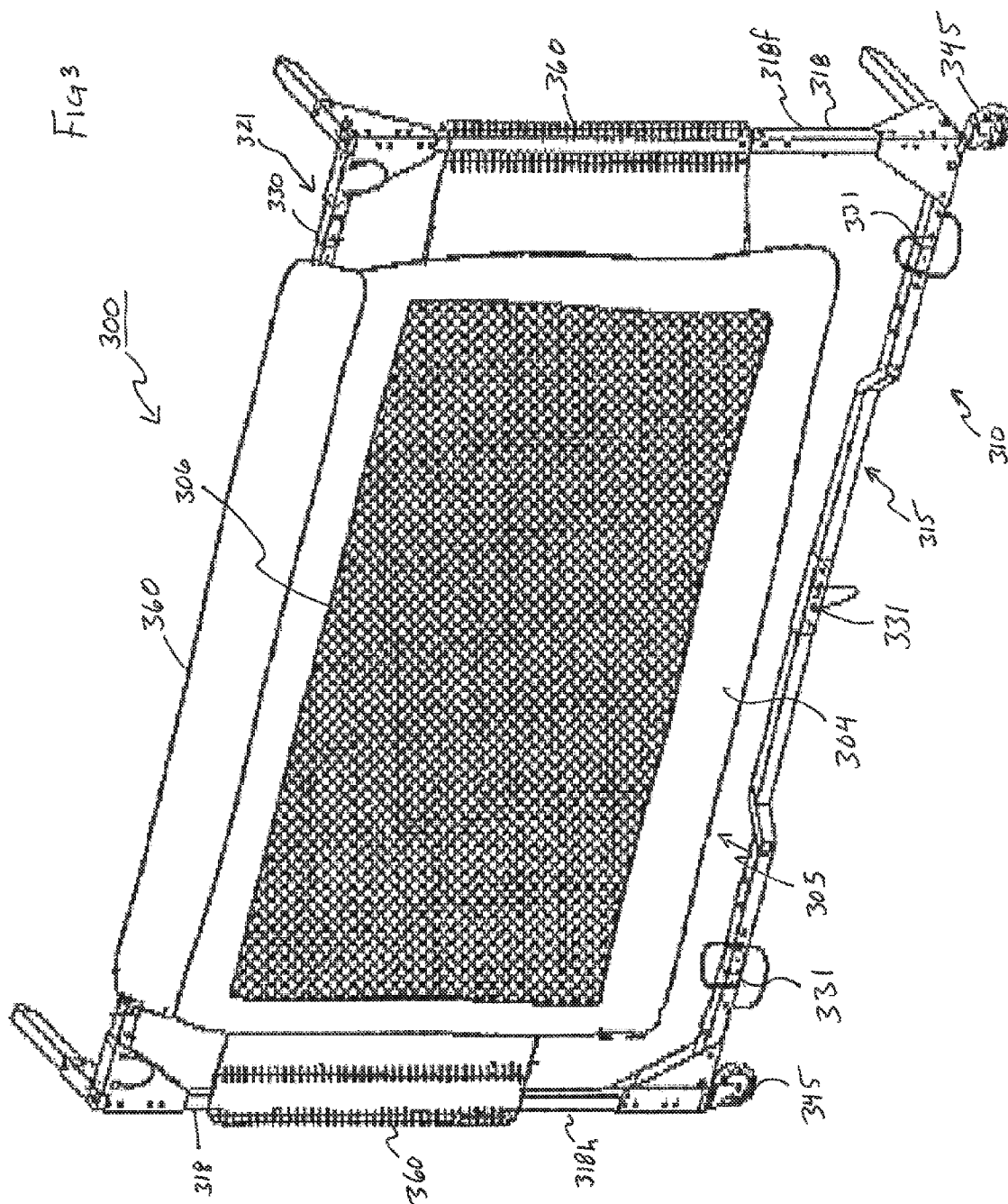
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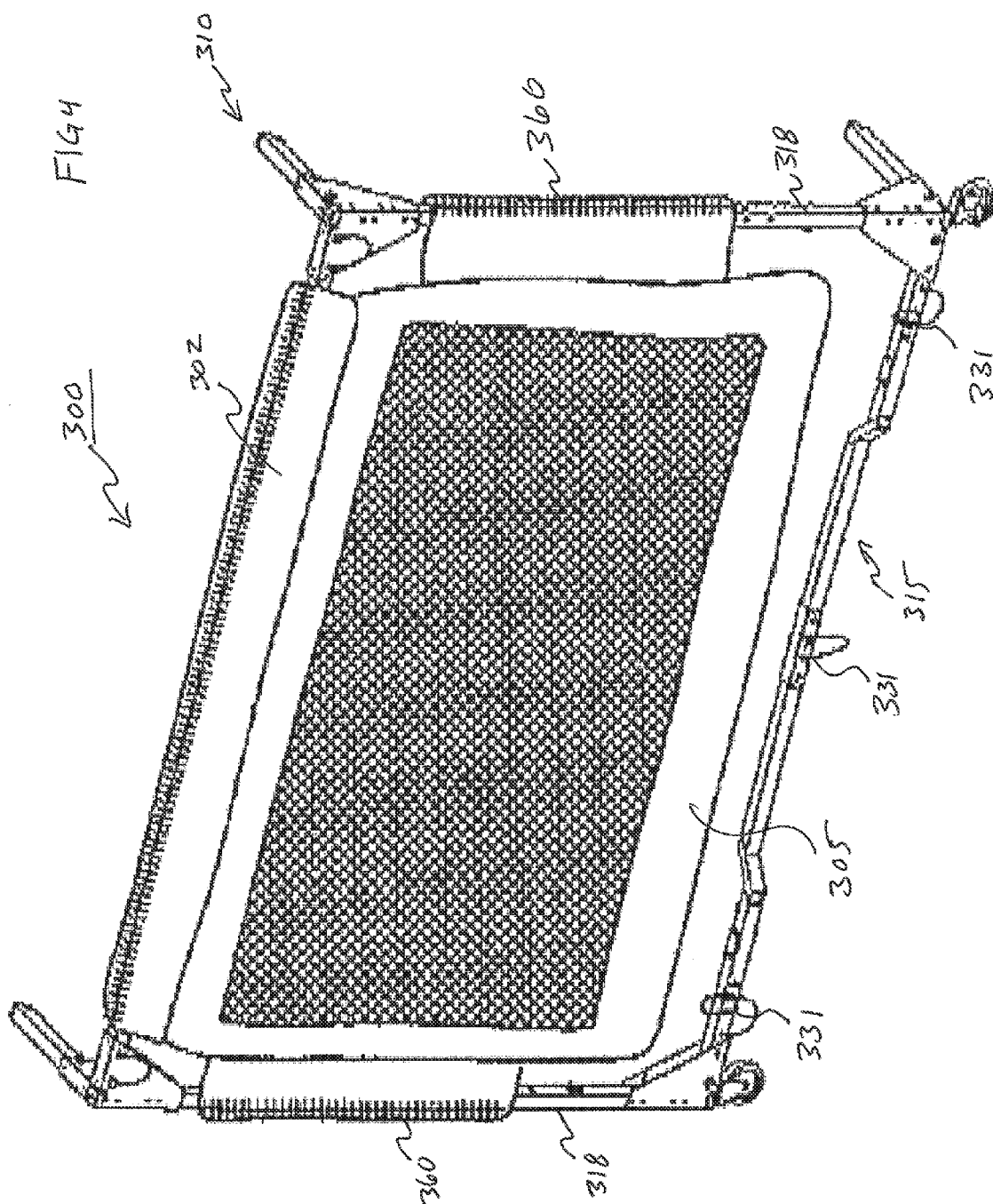
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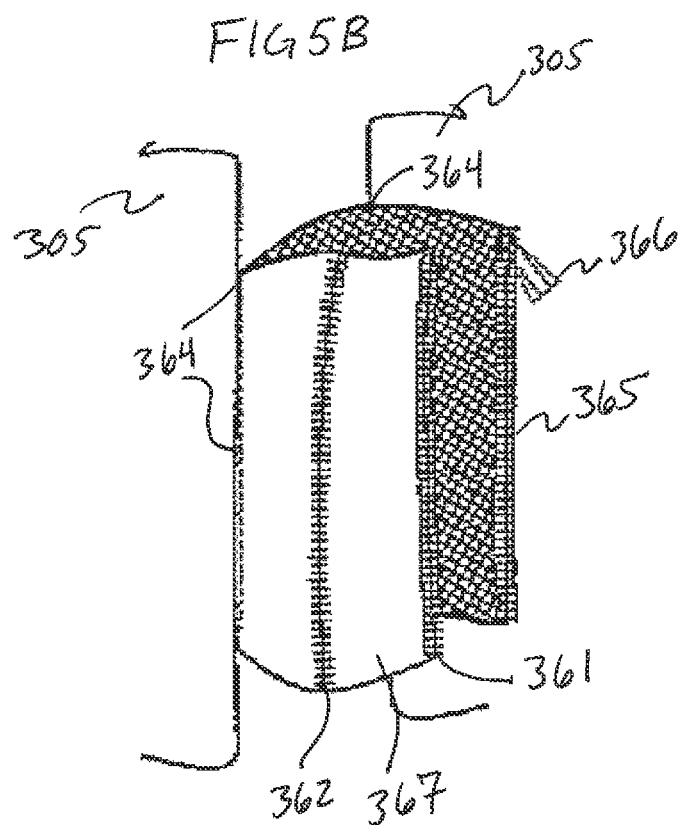
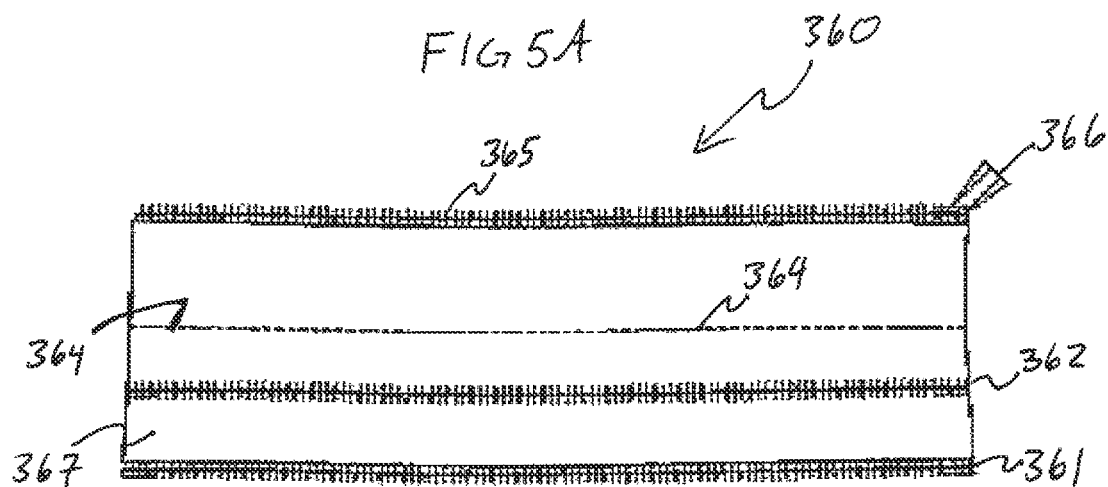
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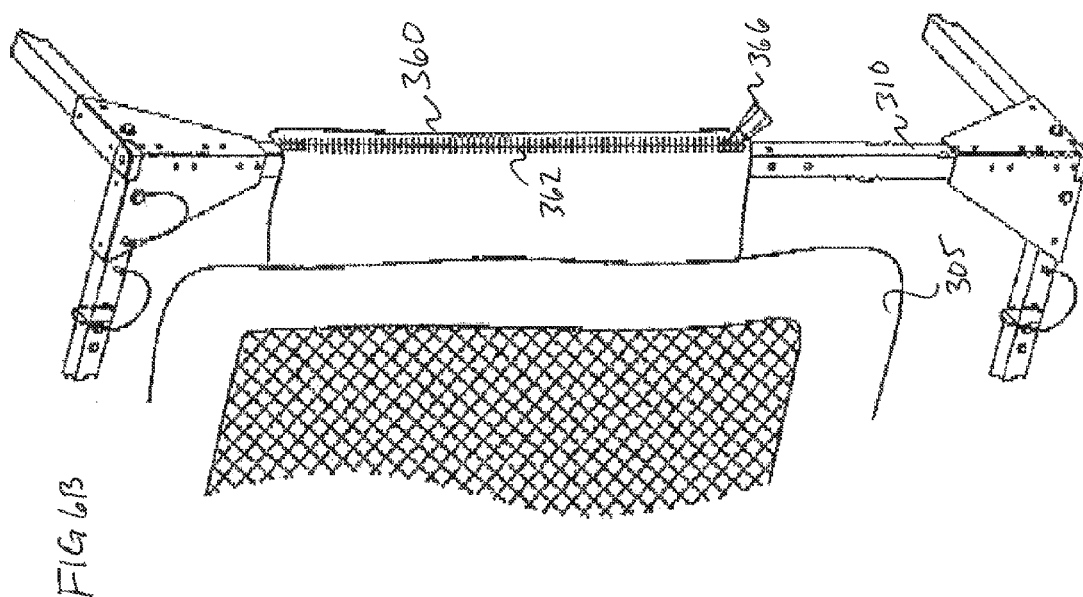
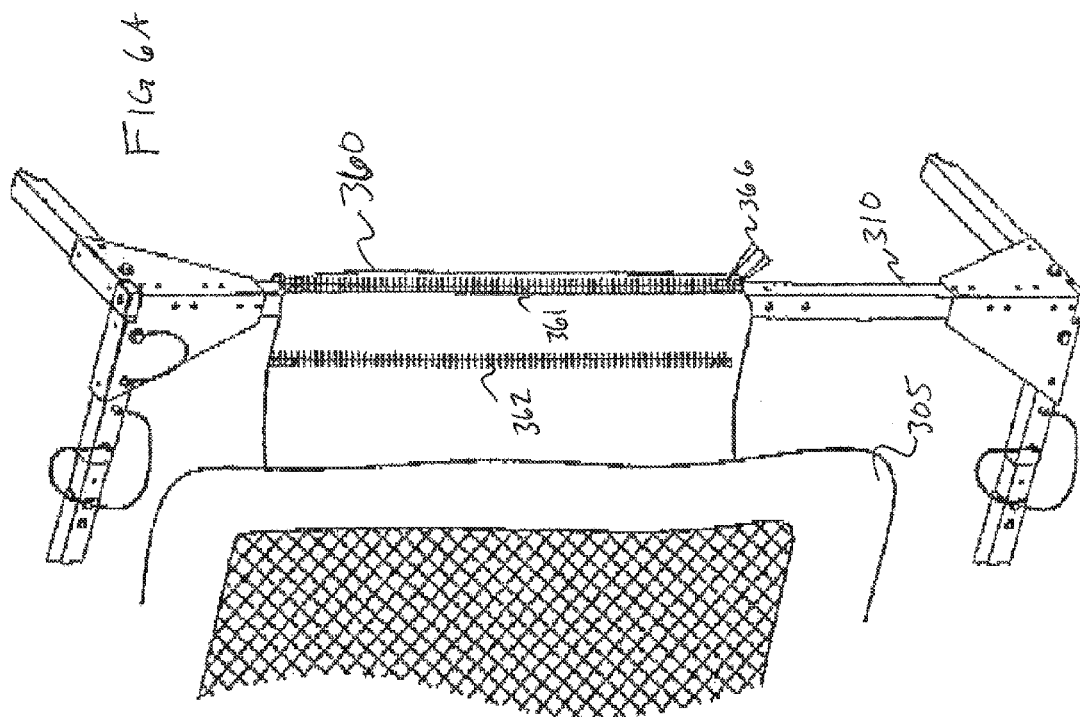












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PORTABLE ENCLOSURE FOR A BED**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

The application claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119 to U.S. Ser. No. 61/771,298 filed Mar. 1, 2013, entitled "Portable Enclosure For a Bed," which is incorporated in its entirety as if fully set forth herein.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to an adjustable enclosure for an area. In particular, the enclosure can be used with a hospital bed to enclose the bed and a patient within the area.

BACKGROUND OF THE RELATED ART

Various illnesses and conditions such as brain trauma, dementia and Alzheimer's disease often leave people in such a condition that constant management of the patient is necessary to prevent further injury and mishap. Traditional systems and methods for monitoring and controlling patients with such needs have included bed straps or restraints, strait jackets, sedation, monitoring device(s), dedicated supervision, isolation rooms and the like, both alone and in combination. Many of these methods and systems are burdensome to all concerned and expensive. For example, bed straps immobilize a patient on a bed. When the patient desires to move or change position, the restraints prevent such shifting. As a result, a restrained patient can become very uncomfortable and/or agitated in addition to suffering medical complications. For another example, a dedicated person to attend to the restrained person's needs on an "all day, every day" basis is costly.

Several techniques for addressing confining a patient to an area, e.g., a bed, while allowing free movement have been developed to address the needs of the patient and caregiver. Some examples are illustrated in U.S. Pat. No. 6,216,291 to Eads et al. and U.S. Pat. No. 6,263,529 to Chadwick et al., each of which is incorporated herein by reference. However, there are problems associated with these prior art enclosure bed apparatuses. Often, the condition that requires restraint may be temporary and, as a result, transportation, assembly and disassembly of the enclosure may be common. These prior art systems require extensive manpower for assembly and disassembly. When disassembled, loose parts can be lost and transport and storage is cumbersome and difficult. To assemble, tools and excessive know-how and manpower are needed. When assembled, excessive bulk prevents easy transport and storage.

Commonly, a patient enters the hospital at the emergency room experiencing symptoms that convince the staff that some form of isolation is in order. Following initial evaluation, a determination may be made indicating that additional tests, evaluation, admission, surgery, or more acute care is required. As a result, the patient may require transfer to multiple locations within the hospital facility, each requiring some form of isolation or restraint.

In addition to the complexity of the prior systems, those systems also have not been able to accommodate adjustable beds or side rails of the beds. For example, hospital bed sizes are relatively uniform. However, the mechanisms of the side rails of the bed may vary between different manufacturers. Specifically, the side rails of some beds extend beyond the end of the bed, and therefore require additional space in the length direction of the bed. Furthermore, wider beds may be neces-

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sary for heavier patients, such as bariatric patients. Enclosures made in uniform dimensions to accommodate the standard bed cannot be adjusted to function with different length or width beds that vary from the norm.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to an adjustable enclosure, e.g., for isolating a person to an area about a bed. The bed is adapted, for example, to support the person and includes a frame and a mattress overlying the frame. In some embodiments, the enclosure comprises a frame adapted to be positioned about an area, and a canopy assembly connectable to the frame for defining an enclosed area. The canopy assembly extends over the frame and is sufficiently large to allow a person located within the isolation chamber to be supported on the bed and to move freely within the area.

In certain embodiments, the frame includes at least an upper laterally extending support and first and second upstanding supports coupled to first and second ends of the upper laterally extending support. The upper laterally extending support is adjustable in a length direction of the support between at least a first position and a second position. The canopy assembly includes a plurality of collars configured to removably connect to canopy to the upper laterally extending support and the first and second upstanding supports. The canopy further includes at least one panel coupled to the plurality of collars such that the panel is held in a plane defined by the upper laterally extending support and the first and second upstanding supports. At least one of the plurality of collars is configured to be adjustable between at least a first circumference and second circumference.

In one embodiment a frame is adapted to be positioned about an area, the frame includes an upper laterally extending support, a first upstanding support coupled to a first end of the upper laterally extending support, and a second upstanding support coupled to a second end of the upper laterally extending support. The upper laterally extending support is adjustable in a length direction of the support between at least a first position and a second position. The canopy assembly is connectable to the frame for defining an enclosed area, and the canopy includes a plurality of collars configured to removably connect the canopy to the upper laterally extending support, the first upstanding support, and the second upstanding support, and at least one panel coupled to the plurality of collars such that the panel is held in a plane defined by the upper laterally extending support, the first upstanding support, and the second upstanding support. At least one of the plurality of collars is adjustable between at least a first circumference and a second circumference, and when the upper laterally extending support is adjusted from the first position to the second position, at least one of the plurality of adjustable collars attached to one of the first upstanding support or the second upstanding support is correspondingly adjustable from the first circumference to the second circumference for said collar to be connected to said at least one of the first upstanding support and the second upstanding support.

In another embodiment, when the upper laterally extending support is adjusted from the first position to the second position, at least one of the plurality of adjustable collars attached to one of the first upstanding support or the second upstanding support is adjusted from the first circumference to the second circumference.

The frame may further include an adjustable lower laterally extending support that is configured to be adjusted between the first and second positions.

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In some embodiments, the adjustable frame elements may be expansion joints or other formers of expanders. For example, the expansion joint may be in the form of a telescoping bar, a splice bar, and/or overlapping plates or other adjustable means. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that other various forms of expansion may be used without departing from the scope of the invention.

In some embodiments, the at least one adjustable collar includes a fastener and a collar extension. The fastener may include first and second connectors defining third and fourth positions, respectively, with the collar extension disposed between the first and second connectors. When the upper laterally extending support is in the first position, the adjustable collar is in the third position, and when the upper laterally extending support is in the second position the adjustable collar is in the fourth position, and the third position corresponds to the first circumference and the fourth position corresponds to the second circumference.

In another embodiment an enclosure for enclosing an area includes a frame adapted to be positioned about an area and a canopy assembly connectable to the frame. The frame includes an upper laterally extending support, a first upstanding support coupled to a first end of the upper laterally extending support, and a second upstanding support coupled to a second end of the upper laterally extending support. The upper laterally extending support is adjustable in a length direction of the support between at least a first position and a second position. The canopy includes a plurality of collars configured to removably connect the canopy to the upper laterally extending support, the first upstanding support, and the second upstanding support, and at least one adjustable panel coupled to the plurality of collars such that the panel is held in a plane defined by the upper laterally extending support, the first upstanding support, and the second upstanding support. When the upper laterally extending support is adjusted from the first position to the second position, the at least one adjustable panel is correspondingly adjustable from a first length to a second length for at least one of the plurality of collars to be connected to at least one of the first upstanding support and the second upstanding support.

In another embodiment an enclosure for enclosing an area, includes a frame adapted to be positioned about an area. The frame includes first means for supporting and for adjusting in length between at least a first position and a second position, a first upstanding support coupled to a first end of the first means, and a second upstanding support coupled to a second end of the first means. A canopy assembly is connectable to the frame for defining an enclosed area, the canopy includes second means for removably connecting the canopy to the first means, the first upstanding support, and the second upstanding support, third means for coupling to the second means such that the third means is held in a plane defined by the first means, the first upstanding support, and the second upstanding support, and fourth means for adjusting from a third position to a fourth position. When the first means is adjusted from the first position to the second position, the fourth means is correspondingly adjustable from the third position to the fourth position for at least one of said second means to be connected to at least one of the first upstanding support and the second upstanding support.

In another embodiment the first means is a length-adjustable laterally extending support, the second means is a plurality of collars, and the third means is a panel, and the fourth means is at least one of an adjustable portion of the panel and an adjustable portion of at least one of the plurality of collars.

In another embodiment a method for enclosing an area is provided. The method includes positioning an enclosure

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about an area, the enclosure including an adjustable frame comprising an upper laterally extending support, a first upstanding support coupled to a first end of the upper laterally extending support, and a second upstanding support coupled to a second end of the upper laterally extending support, wherein the upper laterally extending support is adjustable in a length direction of the support between at least a first position and a second position. The enclosure also includes an adjustable canopy configured to removably attach to the adjustable frame, the adjustable canopy comprising a plurality of collars configured to removably connect the canopy to the upper laterally extending support, the first upstanding support, and the second upstanding support, and at least one panel coupled to the plurality of collars such that the panel is held in a plane defined by the upper laterally extending support, the first upstanding support, and the second upstanding support. At least one of (i) the panel and (ii) at least one of the plurality of collars is adjustable between a third position and a fourth position. When the upper laterally extending support is adjusted from the first position to the second position, said at least one of said adjustable panel and said at least one adjustable collar is correspondingly adjustable from the third position to the fourth position for the canopy to be connected to at least one of the first upstanding support and the second upstanding support, and adjusting at least one of the adjustable frame and the adjustable canopy to change an area enclosed by the enclosure.

In another embodiment, adjusting at least one of the adjustable frame and the adjustable canopy includes adjusting the length of the upper laterally extending support in the length direction between the first position and the second position, and/or adjusting at least one of the adjustable panel and said at least one adjustable collar between the third position and the fourth position.

The fastener may be formed from zippers, complementary hook and loop fasteners (Velcro), or other means of fastening, such as ties, eyelets, snaps, buttons, or any other fastening means. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the fastener may take any form of fastener without departing from the scope of the invention.

Accordingly, an advantage of one aspect of the present invention is found in an adjustable enclosure for surrounding and enclosing an area. The enclosed area may be varied in size as the frame and canopy of the enclosure are adjusted.

Another advantage of the present invention is found in the ability to contain or enclose various size beds and/or various types of bed functions without resorting to using two or more distinct enclosures.

Yet another advantage of the present invention is found in flexibility in application. Accordingly, it should be appreciated that the present invention can be implemented and utilized in numerous ways, including without limitation as a process, an apparatus, a system, a device and a method for applications now known and later developed. These and other unique features of the apparatus and method disclosed herein will become more readily apparent from the following description and the accompanying drawings.

Yet another advantage of the present invention is that the enclosure can be dimensioned to fit through doorways and hallways, such as conventional doorways and hallways and/or those encountered in hospitals. Thus, the enclosures are uniquely configured to transport an isolated patient throughout different locations, for example, within a hospital, without having to remove the patient from the enclosure area.

Yet another advantage of the present invention is to prevent “never events,” or events that should never occur in a hospital. An example of a “never event” is a bed exit fall when a patient

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attempts to exit a bed and falls, potentially leading to injury to the patient. Embodiments of the present invention allow for prevention of such falls, or other never events, by isolating the patient to the bed or bed area, but still retaining some amount of freedom for the patient.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to overcome one or more of the above-described drawbacks and/or disadvantages of the prior art. The enclosure can safely confine a patient to an area, such as on or around a bed. The enclosure permits the patient to be free to move within the area and/or on the bed, without the need for other types of restraints. In some embodiments, caregivers and attendants can see into the restrained area. In certain embodiments, caregivers and attendants can access the patient through selectively accessible and/or operable openings. In some embodiments, the patient has the ability to see and interact with the general environment around the enclosure. In some embodiments, when not in use, the enclosure can be removed and collapsed for easy storage and transport. As will be recognized by those of ordinary skill in the pertinent art based on the teachings herein, the canopy and enclosure of the present invention are equally usable with frames that are not collapsible, and/or frames that are mountable on the bed frame, or otherwise fixedly securable to the bed frame, or otherwise fixedly secured.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

So that those having ordinary skill in the art to which the disclosed invention appertains will more readily understand how to make and use the same, reference may be had to the drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 schematically illustrates an enclosure for a bed positioned about a bed.

FIG. 2 illustrates an adjustable frame to be used for an enclosure.

FIG. 2A illustrates an adjustable frame portion in a first position of the enclosure of FIG. 2.

FIG. 2B illustrates an adjustable frame portion in a second position of the enclosure of FIG. 2.

FIG. 3 illustrates an adjustable enclosure panel attached to the adjustable frame of FIG. 2 in a first position.

FIG. 4 illustrates the adjustable enclosure panel of FIG. 3 in a second position.

FIG. 5A illustrates an embodiment of the adjustable collar in an open and flat position.

FIG. 5B illustrates the adjustable collar as attached to panels and in an open position.

FIG. 6A illustrates an adjustable collar of the adjustable enclosure in the first position of FIG. 3.

FIG. 6B illustrates an adjustable collar of the adjustable enclosure in the second position of FIG. 4.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

The present invention overcomes many of the prior art problems associated with enclosures for restraining or isolating patients to a bed area. The advantages, and other features of the invention disclosed herein, will become more readily apparent to those having ordinary skill in the art from the following detailed description of certain embodiments taken in conjunction with the drawings that set forth representative embodiments of the present invention and wherein like reference numerals identify similar structural elements.

FIG. 1 schematically shows an enclosure having a frame and a canopy. Enclosure **100** is configured to confine a person

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to a bed **200** without restraints. Typically, the enclosure **100** can be used in a hospital environment with a hospital bed. The enclosure **100** has a frame **110** that defines an area of restraint about the bed **200**. The frame **110** can be fabricated from a variety of materials now known and later developed such as steel, PVC pipe, aluminum, plastics, carbon fiber composite, other metals, materials, and the like, alone or in combination, to create a suitably robust and/or lightweight frame **110**.

A canopy assembly **102** is draped about the frame **110** and secured thereto to prevent a person from leaving the area of restraint **180**. An opening **170** in the canopy **102** leaves access to a portion of the bed **200** for adjustment of the bed within the enclosure **100**. The canopy **102** can be secured in place on or over the frame **110** by zippers, fabric sleeves or collars which slide over or wrap around the frame components, complementary hook and loop fasteners (Velcro™) snaps, ties, and the like, or combinations thereof as would be appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art based upon review of the subject disclosure.

The canopy **102** can be fabricated from a combination of vinyl and/or nylon portions **104** and netting **106**, such as, e.g., black nylon netting. Dark colors, such as black, brown, blue and the like, allow for improved see-through capability and greater stain resistance. Further, nylon material is substantially lighter than vinyl and therefore easier to handle. However, those skilled in the art will appreciate that other materials or configurations of the canopy may be used without departing from the scope of this disclosure.

FIG. 2 shows an adjustable frame to be used for an enclosure. Referring to FIG. 2, the frame **110** includes a top, or eave portion **111**, supported above a bottom, or base portion **113**, by upstanding supports **118**. When assembled, the frame **110** is sufficiently rigid to support itself on the floor or other base by the base portion **113**. A bed **200** to be placed within the enclosure **100** has a head **202** and a foot **204** (see FIG. 1); thus, the frame **110** has a corresponding head end **110h** and foot end **110f**, respectively; although the frame **110** as shown is symmetrical, these references are made merely for descriptive purposes. In other embodiments, the frame is not symmetrical, as may be desirable due to use conditions, e.g., the construction of the bed. The strength and stability of the frame **110** may be made according to known techniques such that an adult could robustly attempt exit without damage to the frame **110** or tipping the frame **110** over, or compromising the integrity of the enclosure.

As shown in FIG. 2, the base portion **113** has lower supports **115**, each lower support **115** having a head portion **115h** toward the head **202** of the bed **200** and a foot portion **115f** toward the foot **204** of the bed **200**. The head portion **115h** and the foot portion **115f** are linked by a coupling **115c**. Two lower transverse supports **117** extend between the lower supports **115** to form substantially a rectangle approximately the size of, or slightly larger than, the bed **200**. As will be appreciated, though, the base portion may be constructed with any manner, number, and shape of the members to define any desired shape. Traditionally, a standard hospital bed is approximately a standard size, although it should be appreciated that the enclosure **100**, in particular the rectangle formed by the base portion **113** and eave portion **111**, as discussed herein, is well-suited to adaptation to beds of any size. Moreover, even beds of a standard size may have bed rails that extend beyond the length of the bed, such that additional room at the head or foot of the bed is required to fully utilize the bed rails, particularly when a patient is entering or exiting the bed.

Lower corner brackets **116** (four in the case of a rectangular shape or four frame members) secure the lower supports **115** and lower transverse supports **117** of the base portion **113** in

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such a manner that both lower supports **115**, **117** can selectively rotate upwards at the lower corner brackets **116**. Accordingly, each bracket **116** can have a pivot or pivot construction in a known manner that allows for the selective upward rotation of the lower supports **115**, **117**. Further, each coupling **115c** may provide a rotational pivot in the middle of lower support **115** such that the frame **110** may be folded and/or collapsed for storage, transport, or other purpose.

As shown, the eave portion **111** is supported above the base portion **113** by upstanding supports **118**. Upper supports **121** extend between a head end **111h** and a foot end **111f** of the eave portion **111**. Upper transverse supports **123** extend between the upper supports **121** to form a shape substantially the same as the shape formed by the base portion **113**, here, substantially a form of a rectangle approximately the size of, or slightly larger than, the bed **200**. As will be appreciated, like the base portion, the eave portion **111** may be constructed to form any desired shape, even one different from the base portion **113**. Upper corner brackets **120** (e.g., four in the case of a rectangular shape) secure the upper supports **121** and the upper transverse supports **123** of the eave portion **111**.

Similar to the construction of lower supports **115**, **117**, upper supports **121**, **123** may include pivots or pivot constructions (brackets **120** and coupling **121c**) that allow for selectively folding the upper supports **121**, **123**, albeit downwardly instead of upwardly. Further, as shown in FIG. 2, the central region of each lower support **115** (coupling **115c**) of the base portion **113** is offset toward the interior of the frame **110** for facilitating collapsing the enclosure **100** as well. The offset allows the lower support **115** to selectively rotate upward and/or fold upward to allow for collapse of the enclosure **100** without interference between the lower support **115** and the upper support **121** when folded at an upper coupling **121c**, thereby minimizing the space the enclosure **100** occupies when in a storage state. Accordingly, the offset allows the collapsed enclosure **100** to occupy less space than may otherwise be required for storage. Alternatively, the offset can be outward or upper supports **121** may include an offset, or no offset may be used. Alternatively still, the couplings **115c**, **121c** may be offset relative to each other thereby obviating the need for an offset of the supports **115**, **121**. Although described and shown herein that all elements of the frame, including the support elements, have a square shape or cross-section, the elements of the frame may have any shape or cross-section, e.g., triangular, rectangular, circular, oval, or other shapes and dimensions.

Still referring to FIG. 2, when assembled, the corner brackets **116** and **120** detachably secure the upstanding supports **118** with the lower (**115/117**) and upper (**121/123**) supports. As described above, lower (**115/117**) and upper (**121/123**) supports may be selectively rotatable within the brackets **116** and **120**. Accordingly, a securing means **127**, such as a pin or other locking mechanism may be employed to lock or secure lower (**115/117**) and upper (**121/123**) supports to form the frame without collapsing. In addition, in the illustrative embodiment, the securing means **127** includes two pins **127a**, **127b**, one of which acts as the pivot for the respective lower supports **115**, **117**, and upper supports **121**, **123**, the other that acts to prevent rotation of the frame member about its respective pivot. In alternative embodiments, the upstanding supports **118** may be integral with the corner brackets **116** and **120**. Still in other embodiments, the supports **121**, **123** of the eave portion **111** may each be formed of a single piece, such as a monolithic structure, and selectively detach from the corner brackets **116** and **120** for partial disassembly. In other embodiments, only the supports of the eave portion **111** (**121**, **123**) or base portion **113** (**115**, **117**) may include pivoting

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couplings **121c** or **115c**, respectively, or similar coupling, and thus the frame **110** may be partially collapsible. Moreover, the base portion **113** may be omitted entirely, and the frame may be supported by the floor or other means.

As illustrated in FIG. 1, the bed **200** is mounted on wheels or casters **206**, and the bed **200** can be rolled into the enclosure **100** without interference by removal of any of the base portion supports **115**, **117**, or may roll over base portion supports **115**, **117**. A mattress **210** is located on the bed **200**, the patient may be placed in the enclosure **100**, and the canopy **102** can be secured in place. Alternatively, the canopy **102** may be secured in place about the frame **110** and the patient may enter the restraining area through an open panel **170** of the canopy **102**. In an alternative embodiment, there may be no base portion **113**. In one such embodiment without a base portion **113**, the upstanding supports **118** may terminate in foot plates that rest on the floor. In another embodiment, the upstanding supports **118** may terminate in a post adapted and configured for insertion in headboard slots and footboard slots of the bed **200**, such as is common on a hospital bed. Thus, to erect the enclosure **100** about the bed **200**, the headboard and footboard are removed and the upstanding supports **118** may be inserted therein. Alternatively, the upstanding supports **118** may bolt onto a bed or an adapter plate to facilitate secure locking engagement to the bed.

As noted, frame **110** is an adjustable frame. As shown in FIG. 2, the frame **110** includes expansion joints **319**, **115c**, **117c**, **121c**, **123c**, herein after referred to as expansion joint **319**. These expansion joints, of which expansion joint **319** is explained below, but expansion joints **115c**, **117c**, **121c**, **123c** are similarly constructed, facilitate adjustment of the frame **110** in a length direction, or alternatively, in the width direction (not shown). The upper supports **121** and lower supports **115** may each include expansion joints to allow for adjustment of the supports **115**, **121** in a length direction. The upper supports **123** and lower supports **117** may each include expansion joints to permit width adjustment. The expansion joints allow for the frame **110** to expand or extend (first length/width) to a first position of the frame, and to retract or shorten (second length/width) to a second position of the frame, as detailed herein.

Referring now to FIGS. 2A and 2B, an exemplary expansion joint **319** is shown. FIG. 2A shows the expansion joint **319** as expanded or extended (first length) corresponding to the first position of the frame, and FIG. 2B shows the expansion joint **319** as retracted or shortened (second length) corresponding to the second position of the frame. As shown, the first length is an extension in length of the expansion joint **319**. Expansion joint **319** is part of a support, e.g., as shown in FIG. 2, part of upper support **121** and/or lower support **115**. As shown in FIGS. 2A and 2B, the support includes support elements **319a** and **319b**. The expansion joint **319** facilitates adjustment of the length of the support. In FIGS. 2A and 2B, the expansion joint **319** is formed with a separation and two support elements **319a** and **319b**. When the support elements **319a**, **319b** are at the shortest length (second length or second position of the frame), the elements **319a** and **319b** are touching, as shown in FIG. 2B. However, when the expansion joint **319** is expanded (to the first length or first position of the frame), the elements **319a** and **319b** are separated, as shown in FIG. 2A. Although shown with two lengths, those skilled in the art will appreciate that any number of lengths or dimensions may be accommodated without departure from the invention.

As shown in FIG. 2A, the expansion of the support elements **319a**, **319b** is facilitated by use of a splice bar **340** located within the support elements **319a**, **319b**. The splice

bar **340** allows for structural integrity of the support elements **319a**, **319b** to not be affected, or not be significantly affected, such that the support elements **319a**, **319b** can provide structure, support, and/or rigidity to the frame. The splice bar **340** is an insert within the structure of the support elements **319a**, **319b**. Accordingly, the splice bar **340** is a structural bar or element with a diameter or dimension that is smaller than the diameter or dimension of the support elements **319a**, **319b**. As such, the splice bar **340** may be contained within the support elements **319a**, **319b**. When the expansion or extension of the support elements **319a**, **319b** is desired, the supports elements **319a** and **319b** may be pulled apart, with splice bar **340** maintaining the structure and rigidity of the frame. For example, the splice bar **340** may provide a telescoping aspect to support elements **319a**, **319b**, allowing for an extension/expansion and separation thereof.

To engage the support elements **319a**, **319b** with the splice bar **340**, the support elements **319a**, **319b** have holes **342** and the splice bar **340** has a corresponding hole(s) **344** to accommodate a locking mechanism **341**, such as a pin or bolt or other type of locking mechanism. The locking mechanism **341** allows for the adjustment of the support elements **319a**, **319b** to be adjusted to an appropriate length and then locked in place with locking mechanism **341** such that the expansion joint **319** does not further adjust when in use, one should also note that with locking mechanism **341** removed, the frame elements can be completely separated at that location for disassembly of the frame **110**.

FIG. 2A shows the splice bar **340** located in support elements **319a**, **319b** and serves as part of the expansion joint **319** to be used in upper support **121** and/or lower support **115**. In alternative embodiments, the expansion joint **319** can be configured as a telescoping bar, overlapping plates, rigid sleeves, or other means for expansion that are known or will become known, without departing from the scope of the disclosure. Another configuration of the expansion joint may be that one of the elements of the support may be tapered to fit within the other element of the support, such that an independent element may not be necessary. Alternatively, the splice bar **340** may be integral with one of the elements **319a**, **319b**, forming a reduced size/diameter portion of its respective elements to fit within the other element. In yet other embodiments, the splice bar **340**, whether separate from or integral with the element(s) can be larger than the elements, such that the element(s) fits inside the splice bar **340**, e.g., the splice bar **340** forms a sleeve. Furthermore, expansion joints similar to expansion joint **319** can be used in lower transverse supports **117** and/or upper transverse supports **123** of the embodiment shown in FIG. 2 and can allow for expansion of the bed frame in the width direction. Further, expansion joints as described herein may also be used in upstanding supports **118** to enable adjustment of the enclosure in a vertical direction. FIGS. 2A and 2B show how the splice bar, and therefore support can be adjusted by a user.

Referring now to FIG. 3, a partial view of an adjustable frame **310** and an adjustable canopy **302** of an enclosure **300** are shown in an expanded, extended, or larger configuration, hereinafter referred to as a first position of the enclosure **300**. FIG. 4 shows the enclosure **300** in a second position. The second position is a retracted or smaller configuration of enclosure **300**. The adjustable frame **310** is substantially similar to the frame **110**. The adjustable frame **310** includes an upper support **321** supported above a lower support **315** of a base portion by upstanding supports **318**. Each upstanding support **318** is coupled to an end of the upper support **321**. For example, a first upstanding support **318h** is coupled at a first end **321h** of the upper support **321**, and a second upstanding

support **318f** is coupled at a second end **321f** of the upper support **321**. The upstanding supports **318**, as shown, are also each coupled to a lower support **315**. In an alternative embodiment, the lower support **315** may be omitted, and the upper laterally extending support **321** may be supported by the upstanding supports **318** over a floor or attached to a bed frame, as discussed above. Further, as shown in FIG. 3, the frame **310** includes wheels or casters **345** that facilitate the enclosure **300** to be moveable from one location to another, e.g., with the patient in the enclosure, or to install the enclosure **300** about a bed.

As shown in FIGS. 3 and 4, the first position of the enclosure **300** employs collars **360** in an expanded position of the canopy **302** and supports **315/321** of the frame **310**, and the second position of the enclosure **300** employs the collars **360** of the canopy **302** and supports of the frame **310** in an unexpanded position. The collars **360** are part of or attached to panels **305**, as described herein. Accordingly, the components of the enclosure **300**, the frame **310** and canopy **302** are adjustable between at least a first and a second position. The first position (FIG. 3) is an expanded state or larger configuration, and the second position (FIG. 4) is a retracted state or smaller configuration. The frame **310** and canopy **302** are adjustable to allow for transitioning between the first position and the second position. The frame elements may expand and retract in length in the length direction of the frame elements (along the length of a support element) by means of an expansion joint, as described with respect to FIGS. 2, 2A, and 2B. The canopy assembly may expand and retract by adjustment of the panels of the canopy assembly by means of adjustable collars. The expansion and retraction of the panels is achieved through adjustment of a collar attached to, or part of, the panels. Specifically, as shown, the length of the enclosure **300** is made shorter, such that the distance between the upstanding supports **318** is less in FIG. 4 than it is in FIG. 3. This adjustment is achieved by adjusting the length of the upper support **321**, the length of the lower support **315**, and adjusting the circumference of the collar(s) **360**, as described herein.

To facilitate the adjustability of the frame **310**, the upper support **321** includes one or more expansion joints **330**, substantially similar to expansion joints **319**, **115c**, **117c**, **121c**, **123c**, such that the upper support **321** is adjustable in a length direction of the upper support **321** between at least a first length, corresponding to the first position of the enclosure **300**, and a second length, corresponding to the second position of the enclosure **300**. The lower support **315**, when included, also includes one or more expansion joints **331**, substantially similar to expansion joints **319**, **115c**, **117c**, **121c**, **123c**, such that the lower support **315** is adjustable in a length direction of the lower support **315** between at least a first length and a second length, corresponding to the first and second lengths of the upper support **321** and first and second positions of the enclosure **300**. In such manner, the length of the frame **310**, and therefore enclosure **300**, can be adjusted to accommodate different length beds. Similarly, supports extending in the width direction of the frame may be adjustable to accommodate different width beds, as described above. Specifically, a width extending support may include an expansion joint similar to expansion joints **319**, **115c**, **117c**, **121c**, **123c** to facilitate width expansion of the frame. Moreover, the upstanding supports **118** may also include expansion joints similar to expansion joints **319**, **115c**, **117c**, **121c**, **123c** to facilitate adjustment in the vertical direction.

As shown in FIG. 3 a portion of an adjustable canopy assembly **302** is shown installed on the adjustable frame **310**. The adjustable canopy assembly **302** includes panels **305**,

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including, for example, a combination of vinyl or nylon portions **304** and netting **306**. Although discussed herein with respect to the embodiments shown in FIGS. 3-6, those skilled in the art will appreciate that other constructions of the panels **305** are useable without departing from the scope of the present invention.

To facilitate the adjustability of the canopy, along with the adjustable frame described herein, as shown in FIG. 3, the adjustable canopy assembly **302** includes a plurality of collars **360** that are configured to removably connect the adjustable canopy assembly **302** to the upper support **321** and the upstanding supports **318**. In an alternative embodiment, the collars or other elements may connect and/or attach to the lower support **313**, to provide a completely sealed enclosure, or similar structure. As shown, the collars **360** wrap around the upstanding supports **318** and the upper support **321**. The panel **305** is attached to the plurality of collars **360** such that the panel **305** is held substantially in a plane defined by the upper support **321** and the upstanding supports **318**. As such, the panel **305** is suspended from the frame **310** substantially in a plane of the frame, and substantially defines a wall of an enclosed space that is enclosed by the frame **310**, e.g., enclosing the area within the enclosure **300**.

An expandable collar **360** having fasteners or connectors, herein zippers **361**, **362**, and **365**, as shown in FIGS. 5A and 5B, are configured to removably connect the panel **305** to the frame **310**. FIGS. 5A and 5B show how a user can adjust the collars **360** of the enclosure, and thereby adjust the size, shape, or configuration of the canopy assembly. FIG. 5A shows the collar **360** as opened, expanded, or laid flat. Zipper **365** is a set of zipper teeth that allow for selective zipping engagement between zipper **365** and each of first zipper **361** and second zipper **362**. Zippers **361**, **362** are selectively connected (zipped) to zipper **365** using a zipper pull **366** in a known fashion. A collar extension **367** is disposed between the first zipper **361** and the second zipper **362**. The collar extension **367** is fabric or other material that allows the collar **360** to expand to different sizes or circumferences for removable connection to the upstanding supports **318**. The collar extension **367** may be a section of fabric or may be a pleated material, allowing for different means of expanding the collar **360**. Other forms of collar extension may be used without departing from the scope of this disclosure. For example, elastic material may be used for the collar extension **367**. The first zipper **361** provides a larger first circumference collar **360** when connected with the zipper **365** that corresponds to the first position of enclosure **300**. The second zipper **362** provides a smaller second circumference collar **360** when connected to the zipper **365** and corresponds to the second position of the enclosure **300**. Although described and shown herein as a set of zippers (**361**, **362**, **365**), the zippers may, alternatively, be in the form of any fastener or connecting means, such as zippers, ties, complementary hook and loop fasteners (Velcro™), snaps, or other forms of fasteners known or will become known.

The collar **360** is attachable to a panel **305** along attachment line **364**. Line **364** may be a sew line, such that collar **360** is sewn to the panel **305**, as shown in FIG. 5B. The collar may be sewn to more than one panel **305**, such that the canopy assembly **302** can be attached to a complete frame structure, as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. To connect the collar **360** to the panel **305**, zippers, snaps, ties, complementary hook and loop fasteners (Velcro™), and/or other means of connecting may alternatively be used or the collar **360** may be of a continuous fabric or piece with the panel **305**.

Similar in function to the expansion joints used in the extension of the frame, the adjustable collars allow for mul-

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tiples lengths, dimensions or circumferences of the panel **305**. Accordingly, when the frame **310** is adjusted in size or dimension, the panel **305** may also be adjusted in size or dimension.

A use of the adjustable collar(s) **360**, as is shown in detail in FIGS. 6A and 6B, and as could be used in a method of adjusting the canopy assembly and frame disclosed herein. Referring now to FIG. 6A, a close up view of the collar **360** connected to the upstanding support **318**, of FIG. 3, is shown. As described, the zippers **361** and **362** allow for the size of the collar to be adjusted and therefore adjust the length, size, or dimension of the panel **305**. In FIG. 6A, a large first size is achieved corresponding to the first position of the enclosure **300**, to accommodate for the longer length of supports **321/315**, and employs the first circumference of collar **360** utilizing zipper **361**. This allows for an extension of the canopy assembly **302**, such that a longer bed or more room may be accommodated within the enclosure **300**. FIG. 6B shows the collar **360** in a second size using zipper **362**, that is smaller than the first circumference corresponding to a smaller dimensioned panel (second position of the enclosure **300**).

The adjustable collar(s) **360** can have additional fasteners such that the collar(s) **360** can be adjustable as desired. Further, a lockable drawstring-type configuration may be used for essentially continuous adjustment to the collar(s)/panel(s) size, to, e.g., minimize gaps between the panel and the frame elements. Moreover, collars that attach at the top and bottom of the frame may also be used at the top and bottom of the canopy such that the panel is expandable/adjustable in height, to accommodate different frames, or to be adjusted with an adjustable frame in height.

In view of the above, when operated in conjunction, the adjustable frame **310** and the adjustable canopy assembly **302** are adjustable between various dimensions, to accommodate for different length and/or width beds that may need to be enclosed, and/or to accommodate for bed rails that may need additional room or space to operate.

As will be recognized by those of ordinary skill in the pertinent art based on the teachings herein, the illustrated canopy assemblies are usable with any of numerous different types of frames that are currently known, or that later become known. For example, the canopies may be used with frames that are collapsible, non-collapsible, or that are adjustable in size. In addition, the canopy assemblies equally may be usable with frames that are not foldable or otherwise collapsible, but rather are fixed in position and moved whole, or require the fixedly secured parts of the frame to be disassembled to transport or store the enclosure.

As described, one or more supports or upstanding supports of the adjustable frame may be telescopic with securing elements for enabling the frame to be adjustably sized as desired to accommodate different sized beds (e.g., infant, toddler, twin, full, queen, and king sized beds). Such telescopic supports may be employed either in a collapsible frame or in a non-collapsible frame. Further, although described herein as having a first and second position, and therefore only two sizes, those of skill in the art will appreciate that the frame (and enclosure) may be configured to have many dimensions in length, width, and height, and therefore the above disclosure merely provides examples. For example, the adjustment of the splice bar of embodiments described herein may allow for more than two adjustable positions of the support bars. Such non-collapsible frames may be mounted on the floor surrounding the bed as illustrated in FIG. 1, may be fixedly secured to the bed frame and movable therewith on, for example, via casters on the bed, may be mounted on the bed frame to form a combined bed and enclosure frame, or may be mounted on means for transporting the frame with or without

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the bed, such as wheels, casters, bearings or other devices for rolling, sliding or otherwise transporting the frame that are currently known, or that later become known. Such frames also may be modular, such that separable frame modules or sub-assemblies can be disassembled from each other to transport or store the frame.

In addition, the canopy may define a sealed enclosure for isolating a patient therein, wherein a base wall of the canopy overlies the bed, and if desired, the mattress of the bed, to prevent contamination of the bed and mattress, and wherein the canopy and frame are transportable with the bed to transport the patient within the enclosure from one location to another. Further, although described herein with only two adjustable zippers, this is merely for illustrative purposes, and those skilled in the art will appreciate that many zippers or fastening mechanisms may be used with the collars and panels of the canopy to allow for various sizes, lengths, and dimensions of the canopy without departing from the scope of the present disclosure.

As would be appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the pertinent art upon review of the subject disclosure, the figures and associated detailed description are representative of embodiments of the invention and various modifications can be made thereto. While the invention has been described with respect to certain embodiments, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that various changes and/or modifications can be made to the disclosed embodiments without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention as disclosed herein and as claimed.

What is claimed is:

1. An enclosure for enclosing an area, the enclosure comprising:

a frame adapted to be positioned about an area, the frame comprising:

an upper laterally extending support;

a first upstanding support coupled to a first end of the upper laterally extending support; and

a second upstanding support coupled to a second end of the upper laterally extending support,

wherein the upper laterally extending support is adjustable in a length direction of the support between at least a first position and a second position; and

a canopy assembly connectable to the frame for defining an enclosed area, the canopy comprising:

a plurality of collars configured to removably connect the canopy to the upper laterally extending support, the first upstanding support, and the second upstanding support; and

at least one panel coupled to the plurality of collars such that the panel is held in a plane defined by the upper laterally extending support, the first upstanding support, and the second upstanding support,

wherein at least one of the plurality of collars is adjustable between a least a first circumference and a second circumference,

wherein at least one adjustable collar comprises a fastener comprising a first connector and a second connector, and a collar extension attached to, disposed between, and extending in substantially the same direction as the first connector and the second connector;

wherein, when the upper laterally extending support is adjusted from the first position to the second position, at least one of the plurality of adjustable collars attached to one of the first upstanding support or the second upstanding support is correspondingly adjustable from the first circumference to the second circumference for

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said collar to be connected to said at least one of the first upstanding support and the second upstanding support.

2. An enclosure according to claim 1, further comprising a lower laterally extending support opposing the upper laterally extending support, wherein the lower laterally extending support is adjustable in a length direction of the support between at least the first position and the second position.

3. An enclosure according to claim 1, wherein the upper laterally extending support comprises an expansion joint configured to expand the upper laterally extending support from the first position to the second position.

4. An enclosure according to claim 3, wherein the expansion joint comprises a telescoping bar.

5. An enclosure according to claim 3, wherein the expansion joint comprises a splice bar.

6. An enclosure according to claim 3, wherein the expansion joint comprises at least two overlapping plates.

7. An enclosure according to claim 1, wherein the first connector and the second connector define a third position and a fourth position, respectively; and wherein, when the upper laterally extending support is in the first position, the adjustable collar is placeable in the third position for said collar to be connected to said at least one of the first upstanding support and the second upstanding support, and when the upper laterally extending support is in the second position, the adjustable collar is placeable in the fourth position for said collar to be connected to said at least one of the first upstanding support and the second upstanding support, and

wherein the third position corresponds to the first circumference and the fourth position corresponds to the second circumference.

8. An enclosure according to claim 7, wherein

in the third position the first and second connectors are connected to each other and the collar extension is retracted, and

in the fourth position the first and second connectors are disconnected from each other and the collar extension is extended.

9. An enclosure according to claim 7, wherein the fastener comprises a zipper and the first connector is a first set of zipper teeth and the second connector is a second set of zipper teeth.

10. An enclosure according to claim 7, wherein the fastener comprises complementary hooks and loops (Velcro) and the first connector is a panel of hooks and the second connector is a panel of loops.

11. An enclosure according to claim 7, wherein the fastener comprises a third connector and:

the first connector defines a first location on the collar, the second connector defines a second location on the collar, and

the third connector is configured to connect to the first connector in the third position and to connect to the second connector in the fourth position.

12. An enclosure according to claim 1, wherein the enclosure is configured to enclose a bed.

13. An enclosure for enclosing an area, the enclosure comprising:

a frame adapted to be positioned about an area, the frame comprising:

an upper laterally extending support;

a first upstanding support coupled to a first end of the upper laterally extending support; and

a second upstanding support coupled to a second end of the upper laterally extending support,

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wherein the upper laterally extending support is adjustable in a length direction of the support between at least a first position and a second position; and

a canopy assembly connectable to the frame for defining an enclosed area, the canopy comprising:

a plurality of collars configured to removably connect the canopy to the upper laterally extending support, the first upstanding support, and the second upstanding support; and

at least one adjustable panel coupled to the plurality of collars such that the panel is held in a plane defined by the upper laterally extending support, the first upstanding support, and the second upstanding support, wherein the at least one adjustable panel comprises a fastener comprising a first connector and a second connector, and a panel extension attached to, disposed between, and extending in substantially the same direction as the first connector and the second connector; and

wherein, when the upper laterally extending support is adjusted from the first position to the second position, the at least one adjustable panel is correspondingly adjustable from a first length to a second length for at least one of the plurality of collars to be connected to at least one of the first upstanding support and the second upstanding support.

14. An enclosure according to claim **13**, wherein the first connector and the second connector define a third position and a fourth position; and

wherein, when the upper laterally extending support is in the first position, the adjustable panel is placeable in the third position for said at least one of the collars to be connected to said at least one of the first upstanding support and the second upstanding support, and when the upper laterally extending support is in the second position, the adjustable panel is placeable in the fourth position for said at least one of the collars to be connected to said at least one of the first upstanding support and the second upstanding support, and

wherein the third position corresponds to the first length and the fourth position corresponds to the second length.

15. An enclosure for enclosing an area, the enclosure comprising:

a frame adapted to be positioned about an area, the frame comprising:

first means for supporting and for adjusting in length between at least a first position and a second position;

a first upstanding support coupled to a first end of the first means; and

a second upstanding support coupled to a second end of the first means; and

a canopy assembly connectable to the frame for defining an enclosed area, the canopy comprising:

second means for removably connecting the canopy to the first means, the first upstanding support, and the second upstanding support;

third means for coupling to the second means such that the third means is held in a plane defined by the first means, the first upstanding support, and the second upstanding support; and

fourth means attached to, and extending in substantially the same direction as, one or more of the second means or third means, for adjusting from a third position to a fourth position, and

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wherein, when the first means is adjusted from the first position to the second position, the fourth means is correspondingly adjustable from the third position to the fourth position for at least one of said second means to be connected to at least one of the first upstanding support and the second upstanding support.

16. An enclosure according to claim **15**, wherein the first means is a length-adjustable laterally extending support, the second means is a plurality of collars, and the third means is a panel, and the fourth means is at least one of an adjustable portion of the panel and an adjustable portion of at least one of the plurality of collars.

17. A method for enclosing an area comprising: positioning an enclosure about an area, the enclosure including

an adjustable frame comprising an upper laterally extending support, a first upstanding support coupled to a first end of the upper laterally extending support, and a second upstanding support coupled to a second end of the upper laterally extending support, wherein the upper laterally extending support is adjustable in a length direction of the support between at least a first position and a second position; and

an adjustable canopy configured to removably attach to the adjustable frame, the adjustable canopy comprising a plurality of collars configured to removably connect the canopy to the upper laterally extending support, the first upstanding support, and the second upstanding support, and at least one panel coupled to the plurality of collars such that the panel is held in a plane defined by the upper laterally extending support, the first upstanding support, and the second upstanding support;

wherein one or more of (i) the at least one panel or (ii) at least one of the plurality of collars is adjustable between a third position and a fourth position;

wherein one or more of (i) the at least one adjustable panel comprises at least one fastener comprising a first connector and a second connector, and a panel extension part attached to, disposed between, and extending in substantially the same direction as the first connector and the second connector, or (ii) the at least one adjustable collar comprises a first connector and a second connector, and a collar extension part attached to, disposed between, and extending parallel to the first connector and the second connector;

wherein, when the upper laterally extending support is adjusted from the first position to the second position, said at least one of said adjustable panel or said at least one adjustable collar is correspondingly adjustable from the third position to the fourth position for the canopy to be connected to at least one of the first upstanding support and the second upstanding support; and

adjusting at least one of the adjustable frame and the adjustable canopy to change an area enclosed by the enclosure.

18. A method according to claim **17**, wherein adjusting at least one of the adjustable frame and the adjustable canopy comprises:

adjusting the length of the upper laterally extending support in the length direction between the first position and the second position; and/or

adjusting one or more of the adjustable panel or said at least one adjustable collar between the third position and the fourth position.

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